

Investing in local economic growth

The LGA's offer of support to councils 2013/14

City Deals, Growing Places Funds, Local Growth Deals, Heseltine and a wealth of independent studies have clearly shown that devolved decision making can increase economic performance.

Local government has risen to this challenge. Both the private sector and central government regard local government, through working in partnerships such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, as being key to creating the conditions for private sector economic growth and job creation. There is no one else at the local or sub-national level to do this.

A key priority for the LGA in 2013/14 is to work with councils to help promote economic growth. We can help councils in delivering their ambitions through support on leadership skills, identifying and advising on new opportunities and good practice information.

From political to officer capacity building, supporting local planning for growth, peer challenge, legal and technical support and advice, our range of support for investing in economic growth reflects the whole council approach that is needed to sustainably drive local growth.



Our offer

Supporting political ambition

The LGA offers direct support to elected members through focused workshops that provide a forum for discussion and exchange, debating issues such as:

- how the private and public sector can work better together for growth
- making Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) work
- how can growth be incentivised – especially without significant regeneration budgets
- the different leadership styles and roles that councils will need to play
- the role of heritage and the visitor economy.

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The LGA's Leadership Academy is a highly regarded leadership development programme for leading councillors. The Academy has updated its programme for 2013/14, to aid leaders in addressing the particularly challenging current context for councils. The LGA's Planning Advisory Service (PAS) will be running Leadership Academies on collaborating with partners for growth, and free training sessions on development economics and viability. And in partnership with VisitEngland, Arts Council England and English Heritage we will be running a new Leadership Academy on the role of culture and growth.

See: www.local.gov.uk/leadership-academy

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Supporting Local Plans for local growth

Councils and their partners are leading regeneration and growth, and helping local economies to recover despite the challenging circumstances. The LGA's Planning Advisory Service (PAS) offers direct support to individual councils (or groups of councils working together) on getting their local plans in place. Free support is also available on setting a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

During 2013/14, further support will be offered on driving growth by using funding streams and assets, and supporting neighbourhoods to get more involved in plan-making.

See: www.pas.gov.uk

Contact: pas@local.gov.uk

Supporting with an all-council approach through peer challenge

By combining political and officer expertise from across local government, the LGA can provide peer-based challenge and support to help you reflect on your economic plans, strategies and relationships.

As part of the LGA's offer to the sector, all local authorities are entitled to a corporate peer challenge, which is delivered at no charge and at a time of their choosing.

The scope is agreed with the council so that it is tailored to local needs, requirements and priority issues. A number of authorities are choosing to focus their peer challenge on local economic growth.

See: www.local.gov.uk/peer-challenge

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Supporting councils to use physical assets to promote growth

The LGA has been supporting local authorities on capital and asset rationalisation since 2010; three waves of the programme have supported 32 authorities covering around 40 per cent of the country.

The Capital and Asset Pathfinders (CAP) have demonstrated significant results in rationalising its own estate and there have been good examples in relation to pan-public sector activity.

The Government Property Unit (GPU) in the Cabinet Office (CO) has approached

the LGA to run a joint programme on a funded basis. This will aid local and central government asset holders in 'unblocking' any barriers that may be preventing a more integrated approach.

The pilots will be expected to produce clear outcomes, around issues such as land disposed; services reconfigured to include central government functions; land cleared for housing or other growth uses; running costs saved; and capital receipts raised.

During 2013/14, further learning, progress and achievements will be captured and shared through interim reports, which will be available from the LGA's website.

See: www.local.gov.uk/productivity

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Supporting councils to bring forward new housing growth

Housing is central to everything we do. From delivering economic growth to supporting people to live independent and healthier lives, there are huge economic and social returns to be gained from investing in new build and existing properties to provide homes which meet local needs. The LGA offers a range of support activities to help councils to bring forward new housing growth. This includes:

- Numerous publications, guides and online resources, which showcase innovative practice and provide practical suggestions to help councils work in partnership to deliver housing development despite the challenging economic environment. Forthcoming publications include a series of practice notes highlighting local

implications of recent reforms and steps councils can take to bring forward housing growth in different circumstances.

- Online library of case studies which provide helpful examples of how councils are working creatively to meet local housing needs.
- Tools to allow local authorities to network and share best practice including strategic housing and working with the private rented sector.
- The LG Inform service provides a useful benchmarking and performance assessment tool and councils can access an independent review of their housing services through a low cost peer challenge.

See: www.local.gov.uk/housing

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Local Partnerships: professional legal and contractual support and advice for councils

Councils can get assistance with growth and regeneration projects from Local Partnerships (LP), a joint venture owned by the Local Government Association and HM Treasury. LP provides delivery support and commercial expertise to local authorities and other public bodies on key projects, financing and efficiency issues. LP is now expanding its offer to councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) on the delivery of regeneration and growth.

The support to councils available from LP reflects its belief that issues relating to physical and economic regeneration are central to delivering growth at the local and national levels. It has to ensure the resources available to local authorities and other public bodies are targeted at delivering the same objectives – unlocking private sector investment and ensuring the benefit of the investment is retained in the local area.

LP recognises that in the current economic climate none of us have the luxury of large delivery teams. LP can use the extensive experience of its staff to support the projects being promoted by Councils and LEPs, integrate the growth agenda within service delivery and discourage re-invention of the wheel.

See: www.localpartnerships.org.uk

Information and good practice

Further information and good practice can be found on our website

See: www.local.gov.uk/economy-and-transport

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